



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
OCT 1 1996
FCC MAIL ROOM

Douglas L. Parker
Director
Hope Babcock
Associate Director
Environmental Law Project
Angela J. Campbell
Associate Director
Citizens Communications Center Project
John D. Podesta
Visiting Scholar
Lori Anne Dolqueist
Karen M. Edwards
Lisel Loy
Alma L. Lowry
Fellows

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

September 25, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Universal Service
Written Ex Parte Communication
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Caton:

Attached, on behalf of United States Catholic Conference et al., are two copies of a letter sent to the members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service requesting to testify at the October 17, 1996 meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.

Sincerely,

Angela J. Campbell

Angela Campbell
Counsel for United States
Catholic Conference et al.

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 2 Originals
List A B C D E

September 26, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. -- Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

FCC
OCT 11 1996
RECEIVED

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As you prepare your recommendations regarding Universal Service, we encourage you to include in the definition of services to be supported voice mail and other telephone services to homeless persons and migrant farmworkers. As we have noted in our Comments to the Joint Board (April 12, May 7, and August 2, 1996), the FCC has a statutory obligation under the Act to provide universal service to "all people" living in the United States. This includes people who are homeless and migrant farmworkers. These populations cannot obtain the most basic residential service because they lack a permanent residence. Therefore, the FCC should define universal service to include substitutes for basic telephone service for them.

Recently, some Washington insiders have joked about this issue, suggesting that people who are homeless are not deserving of the guarantee to basic communications services embodied in the Act. But offering telephone access to some of America's most needy citizens via voice mail and other telephone services provided through social service agencies is very serious. Without the ability to make and receive a phone call, people who are homeless cannot list a telephone number on a job application, they cannot find out about an interview, and they cannot receive a job offer by telephone. They are effectively shut out of the employment process. Not only that, without telephone access they lack a significant resource that would help them find housing, child care, and educational opportunities.

Those who have made light of this serious issue on the grounds that providing voice mail to homeless people is frivolous have missed the point: voice mail helps homeless people move back into the mainstream to find work and become self-sufficient.

Voice mail is also important for migrant farmworkers -- the poorest of the working poor -- who are away from their homes the better part of the year. These workers need to be able to receive a message from a doctor, a child, or a social service provider. They also need telephone services to learn where new crops are being harvested so they can continue to find work. Finally, because children of migrant farmworkers are often in transit, they need telephone access to keep in touch with teachers and to continue their educational progress.

Already, some states have seen the benefits of providing this basic form of communication to people who are homeless. The state of Wisconsin implemented its own universal service plan which included voice mail for people who are homeless. Wisconsin implemented this policy after finding that there is an expectation on the part of prospective employers that people can be reached by telephone, and that increased telephone accessibility helps people who are homeless to find jobs and to assimilate with other citizens. Wisconsin also found that voice mail enables people who are homeless to obtain medical and social service benefits more effectively. Outside of Wisconsin, cities from Seattle to Cleveland to New York have successfully implemented community based voice mail programs that are

helping people find jobs and housing. All of these programs demonstrate that providing voice mail to people who are homeless helps communities and is affordable.

Voice mail can provide a vital link to the world of employment and security for people who are homeless. Far from being a luxury, it is a tool that allows people to work, to support their families, to contribute to the tax base, and, of course, to become paying telephone subscribers. This scenario benefits everyone.

We would like the opportunity to present more information about this vital issue to the Joint Board at the October 17th meeting. We respectfully request a place on your agenda to tell you more about how providing voice mail to people who are homeless and to migrant workers can benefit those populations as well as the general public. If you would like to explore the possibility of our testifying, or would like more information, please call Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.

Sincerely,



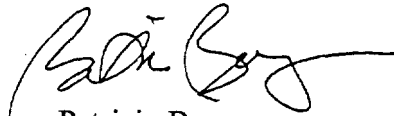
Katherine Grincewich
Office of the General Counsel
United States Catholic
Conference



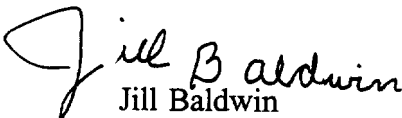
Linda Israel
American Women's
Roundtable



Ken McEldowney
Consumer Action



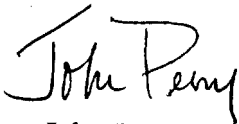
Patricia Barry
Community Technology
Institute



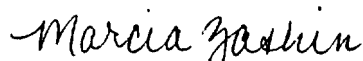
Jill Baldwin
5th Street Connection



Sid Mohn
Heartland Alliance for
Human Needs and Human
Rights



John Perry
Interstate Migrant
Education Council



Marcia Zashin
Educational Consultant to
Cleveland Public Schools
and Project ACT

Roger Rosenthal

Roger Rosenthal
Migrant Legal Action
Program

Al Wright

Al Wright
National Association of
Migrant Educators

Mary Ann Gleason

Mary Ann Gleason
National Coalition for
the Homeless

Shirley Wolfe

Shirley Wolfe
Vermont Migrant Education
Program

Patty Mullay Fugere

Patty Mullay Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

cc: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Members
CC Docket No. 96-45 Service List

September 26, 1996

RECEIVED
OCT 1 1996
FCC

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. -- Room 826
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As you prepare your recommendations regarding Universal Service, we encourage you to include in the definition of services to be supported voice mail and other telephone services to homeless persons and migrant farmworkers. As we have noted in our Comments to the Joint Board (April 12, May 7, and August 2, 1996), the FCC has a statutory obligation under the Act to provide universal service to "all people" living in the United States. This includes people who are homeless and migrant farmworkers. These populations cannot obtain the most basic residential service because they lack a permanent residence. Therefore, the FCC should define universal service to include substitutes for basic telephone service for them.

Recently, some Washington insiders have joked about this issue, suggesting that people who are homeless are not deserving of the guarantee to basic communications services embodied in the Act. But offering telephone access to some of America's most needy citizens via voice mail and other telephone services provided through social service agencies is very serious. Without the ability to make and receive a phone call, people who are homeless cannot list a telephone number on a job application, they cannot find out about an interview, and they cannot receive a job offer by telephone. They are effectively shut out of the employment process. Not only that, without telephone access they lack a significant resource that would help them find housing, child care, and educational opportunities.

Those who have made light of this serious issue on the grounds that providing voice mail to homeless people is frivolous have missed the point: voice mail helps homeless people move back into the mainstream to find work and become self-sufficient.

Voice mail is also important for migrant farmworkers -- the poorest of the working poor -- who are away from their homes the better part of the year. These workers need to be able to receive a message from a doctor, a child, or a social service provider. They also need telephone services to learn where new crops are being harvested so they can continue to find work. Finally, because children of migrant farmworkers are often in transit, they need telephone access to keep in touch with teachers and to continue their educational progress.

Already, some states have seen the benefits of providing this basic form of communication to people who are homeless. The state of Wisconsin implemented its own universal service plan which included voice mail for people who are homeless. Wisconsin implemented this policy after finding that there is an expectation on the part of prospective employers that people can be reached by telephone, and that increased telephone accessibility helps people who are homeless to find jobs and to assimilate with other citizens. Wisconsin also found that voice mail enables people who are homeless to obtain medical and social service benefits more effectively. Outside of Wisconsin, cities from Seattle to Cleveland to New York have successfully implemented community based voice mail programs that are

helping people find jobs and housing. All of these programs demonstrate that providing voice mail to people who are homeless helps communities and is affordable.

Voice mail can provide a vital link to the world of employment and security for people who are homeless. Far from being a luxury, it is a tool that allows people to work, to support their families, to contribute to the tax base, and, of course, to become paying telephone subscribers. This scenario benefits everyone.

We would like the opportunity to present more information about this vital issue to the Joint Board at the October 17th meeting. We respectfully request a place on your agenda to tell you more about how providing voice mail to people who are homeless and to migrant workers can benefit those populations as well as the general public. If you would like to explore the possibility of our testifying, or would like more information, please call Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.

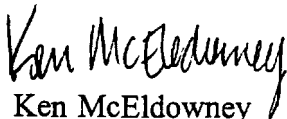
Sincerely,



Katherine Grincewich
Office of the General Counsel
United States Catholic
Conference



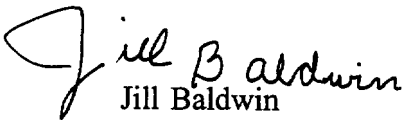
Linda Israel
American Women's
Roundtable



Ken McEldowney
Consumer Action



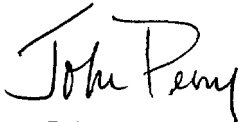
Patricia Barry
Community Technology
Institute



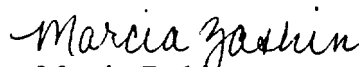
Jill Baldwin
5th Street Connection



Sid Mohn
Heartland Alliance for
Human Needs and Human
Rights



John Perry
Interstate Migrant
Education Council



Marcia Zashin
Educational Consultant to
Cleveland Public Schools
and Project ACT

Roger Rosenthal

Roger Rosenthal
Migrant Legal Action
Program

Al Wright

Al Wright
National Association of
Migrant Educators

Mary Ann Gleason

Mary Ann Gleason
National Coalition for
the Homeless

Shirley Wolfe

Shirley Wolfe
Vermont Migrant Education
Program

Patty Mullay Fugere

Patty Mullay Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

cc: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Members
CC Docket No. 96-45 Service List

September 26, 1996

RECEIVED
OCT 1 1996
FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Rachelle Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. -- Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As you prepare your recommendations regarding Universal Service, we encourage you to include in the definition of services to be supported voice mail and other telephone services to homeless persons and migrant farmworkers. As we have noted in our Comments to the Joint Board (April 12, May 7, and August 2, 1996), the FCC has a statutory obligation under the Act to provide universal service to "all people" living in the United States. This includes people who are homeless and migrant farmworkers. These populations cannot obtain the most basic residential service because they lack a permanent residence. Therefore, the FCC should define universal service to include substitutes for basic telephone service for them.

Recently, some Washington insiders have joked about this issue, suggesting that people who are homeless are not deserving of the guarantee to basic communications services embodied in the Act. But offering telephone access to some of America's most needy citizens via voice mail and other telephone services provided through social service agencies is very serious. Without the ability to make and receive a phone call, people who are homeless cannot list a telephone number on a job application, they cannot find out about an interview, and they cannot receive a job offer by telephone. They are effectively shut out of the employment process. Not only that, without telephone access they lack a significant resource that would help them find housing, child care, and educational opportunities.

Those who have made light of this serious issue on the grounds that providing voice mail to homeless people is frivolous have missed the point: voice mail helps homeless people move back into the mainstream to find work and become self-sufficient.

Voice mail is also important for migrant farmworkers -- the poorest of the working poor -- who are away from their homes the better part of the year. These workers need to be able to receive a message from a doctor, a child, or a social service provider. They also need telephone services to learn where new crops are being harvested so they can continue to find work. Finally, because children of migrant farmworkers are often in transit, they need telephone access to keep in touch with teachers and to continue their educational progress.

Already, some states have seen the benefits of providing this basic form of communication to people who are homeless. The state of Wisconsin implemented its own universal service plan which included voice mail for people who are homeless. Wisconsin implemented this policy after finding that there is an expectation on the part of prospective employers that people can be reached by telephone, and that increased telephone accessibility helps people who are homeless to find jobs and to assimilate with other citizens. Wisconsin also found that voice mail enables people who are homeless to obtain medical and social service benefits more effectively. Outside of Wisconsin, cities from Seattle to Cleveland to New York have successfully implemented community based voice mail programs that are

helping people find jobs and housing. All of these programs demonstrate that providing voice mail to people who are homeless helps communities and is affordable.

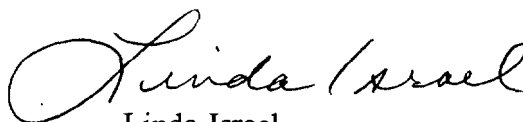
Voice mail can provide a vital link to the world of employment and security for people who are homeless. Far from being a luxury, it is a tool that allows people to work, to support their families, to contribute to the tax base, and, of course, to become paying telephone subscribers. This scenario benefits everyone.

We would like the opportunity to present more information about this vital issue to the Joint Board at the October 17th meeting. We respectfully request a place on your agenda to tell you more about how providing voice mail to people who are homeless and to migrant workers can benefit those populations as well as the general public. If you would like to explore the possibility of our testifying, or would like more information, please call Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.

Sincerely,



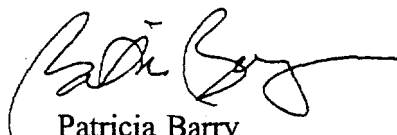
Katherine Grincewich
Office of the General Counsel
United States Catholic
Conference



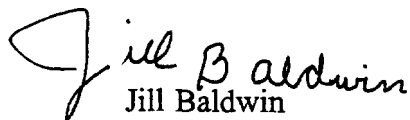
Linda Israel
American Women's
Roundtable



Ken McEldowney
Consumer Action



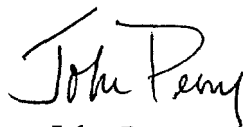
Patricia Barry
Community Technology
Institute



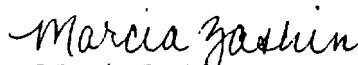
Jill Baldwin
5th Street Connection



Sid Mohn
Heartland Alliance for
Human Needs and Human
Rights



John Perry
Interstate Migrant
Education Council



Marcia Zashin
Educational Consultant to
Cleveland Public Schools
and Project ACT

Roger Rosenthal

Roger Rosenthal
Migrant Legal Action
Program

Al Wright

Al Wright
National Association of
Migrant Educators

Mary Ann Gleason

Mary Ann Gleason
National Coalition for
the Homeless

Shirley Wolfe

Shirley Wolfe
Vermont Migrant Education
Program

Patty Mullay Fugere

Patty Mullay Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

cc: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Members
CC Docket No. 96-45 Service List

September 26, 1996

RECEIVED
OCT 1 1996
FCC

The Honorable Julia Johnson, Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
Capital Circle Office Center
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

As you prepare your recommendations regarding Universal Service, we encourage you to include in the definition of services to be supported voice mail and other telephone services to homeless persons and migrant farmworkers. As we have noted in our Comments to the Joint Board (April 12, May 7, and August 2, 1996), the FCC has a statutory obligation under the Act to provide universal service to "all people" living in the United States. This includes people who are homeless and migrant farmworkers. These populations cannot obtain the most basic residential service because they lack a permanent residence. Therefore, the FCC should define universal service to include substitutes for basic telephone service for them.

Recently, some Washington insiders have joked about this issue, suggesting that people who are homeless are not deserving of the guarantee to basic communications services embodied in the Act. But offering telephone access to some of America's most needy citizens via voice mail and other telephone services provided through social service agencies is very serious. Without the ability to make and receive a phone call, people who are homeless cannot list a telephone number on a job application, they cannot find out about an interview, and they cannot receive a job offer by telephone. They are effectively shut out of the employment process. Not only that, without telephone access they lack a significant resource that would help them find housing, child care, and educational opportunities.

Those who have made light of this serious issue on the grounds that providing voice mail to homeless people is frivolous have missed the point: voice mail helps homeless people move back into the mainstream to find work and become self-sufficient.

Voice mail is also important for migrant farmworkers -- the poorest of the working poor -- who are away from their homes the better part of the year. These workers need to be able to receive a message from a doctor, a child, or a social service provider. They also need telephone services to learn where new crops are being harvested so they can continue to find work. Finally, because children of migrant farmworkers are often in transit, they need telephone access to keep in touch with teachers and to continue their educational progress.

Already, some states have seen the benefits of providing this basic form of communication to people who are homeless. The state of Wisconsin implemented its own universal service plan which included voice mail for people who are homeless. Wisconsin implemented this policy after finding that there is an expectation on the part of prospective employers that people can be reached by telephone, and that increased telephone accessibility helps people who are homeless to find jobs and to assimilate with other citizens. Wisconsin also found that voice mail enables people who are homeless to obtain medical and social service benefits more effectively. Outside of Wisconsin, cities from Seattle to Cleveland to

helping people find jobs and housing. All of these programs demonstrate that providing voice mail to people who are homeless helps communities and is affordable.

Voice mail can provide a vital link to the world of employment and security for people who are homeless. Far from being a luxury, it is a tool that allows people to work, to support their families, to contribute to the tax base, and, of course, to become paying telephone subscribers. This scenario benefits everyone.

We would like the opportunity to present more information about this vital issue to the Joint Board at the October 17th meeting. We respectfully request a place on your agenda to tell you more about how providing voice mail to people who are homeless and to migrant workers can benefit those populations as well as the general public. If you would like to explore the possibility of our testifying, or would like more information, please call Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.

Sincerely,



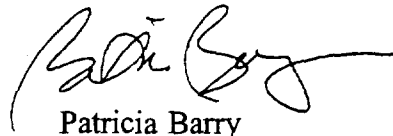
Katherine Grincewich
Office of the General Counsel
United States Catholic
Conference



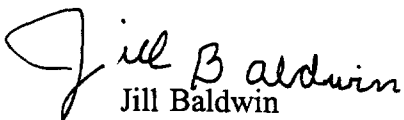
Linda Israel
American Women's
Roundtable



Ken McEldowney
Consumer Action



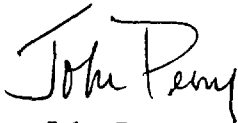
Patricia Barry
Community Technology
Institute



Jill Baldwin
5th Street Connection



Sid Mohn
Heartland Alliance for
Human Needs and Human
Rights



John Perry
Interstate Migrant
Education Council



Marcia Zashin
Educational Consultant to
Cleveland Public Schools
and Project ACT

Roger Rosenthal

Roger Rosenthal
Migrant Legal Action
Program

Al Wright

Al Wright
National Association of
Migrant Educators

Mary Ann Gleason

Mary Ann Gleason
National Coalition for
the Homeless

Shirley Wolfe

Shirley Wolfe
Vermont Migrant Education
Program

Patty Mullay Fugere

Patty Mullay Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

cc: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Members
CC Docket No. 96-45 Service List

September 26, 1996

RECEIVED
OCT 1 1996
FCC

The Honorable Laska Schoenfelder, Commissioner
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capital Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioner Schoenfelder:

As you prepare your recommendations regarding Universal Service, we encourage you to include in the definition of services to be supported voice mail and other telephone services to homeless persons and migrant farmworkers. As we have noted in our Comments to the Joint Board (April 12, May 7, and August 2, 1996), the FCC has a statutory obligation under the Act to provide universal service to "all people" living in the United States. This includes people who are homeless and migrant farmworkers. These populations cannot obtain the most basic residential service because they lack a permanent residence. Therefore, the FCC should define universal service to include substitutes for basic telephone service for them.

Recently, some Washington insiders have joked about this issue, suggesting that people who are homeless are not deserving of the guarantee to basic communications services embodied in the Act. But offering telephone access to some of America's most needy citizens via voice mail and other telephone services provided through social service agencies is very serious. Without the ability to make and receive a phone call, people who are homeless cannot list a telephone number on a job application, they cannot find out about an interview, and they cannot receive a job offer by telephone. They are effectively shut out of the employment process. Not only that, without telephone access they lack a significant resource that would help them find housing, child care, and educational opportunities.

Those who have made light of this serious issue on the grounds that providing voice mail to homeless people is frivolous have missed the point: voice mail helps homeless people move back into the mainstream to find work and become self-sufficient.

Voice mail is also important for migrant farmworkers -- the poorest of the working poor -- who are away from their homes the better part of the year. These workers need to be able to receive a message from a doctor, a child, or a social service provider. They also need telephone services to learn where new crops are being harvested so they can continue to find work. Finally, because children of migrant farmworkers are often in transit, they need telephone access to keep in touch with teachers and to continue their educational progress.

Already, some states have seen the benefits of providing this basic form of communication to people who are homeless. The state of Wisconsin implemented its own universal service plan which included voice mail for people who are homeless. Wisconsin implemented this policy after finding that there is an expectation on the part of prospective employers that people can be reached by telephone, and that increased telephone accessibility helps people who are homeless to find jobs and to assimilate with other citizens. Wisconsin also found that voice mail enables people who are homeless to obtain medical and social service benefits more effectively. Outside of Wisconsin, cities from Seattle to Cleveland to New York have successfully implemented community based voice mail programs that are

helping people find jobs and housing. All of these programs demonstrate that providing voice mail to people who are homeless helps communities and is affordable.

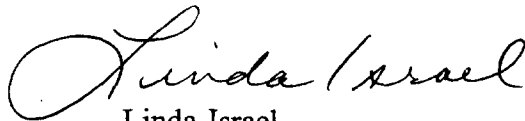
Voice mail can provide a vital link to the world of employment and security for people who are homeless. Far from being a luxury, it is a tool that allows people to work, to support their families, to contribute to the tax base, and, of course, to become paying telephone subscribers. This scenario benefits everyone.

We would like the opportunity to present more information about this vital issue to the Joint Board at the October 17th meeting. We respectfully request a place on your agenda to tell you more about how providing voice mail to people who are homeless and to migrant workers can benefit those populations as well as the general public. If you would like to explore the possibility of our testifying, or would like more information, please call Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.

Sincerely,



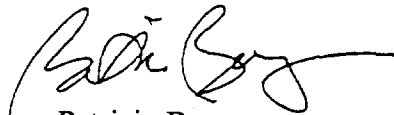
Katherine Grincewich
Office of the General Counsel
United States Catholic
Conference



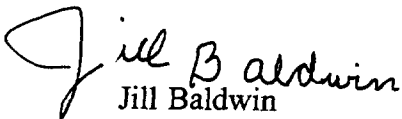
Linda Israel
American Women's
Roundtable



Ken McEldowney
Consumer Action



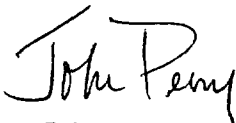
Patricia Barry
Community Technology
Institute



Jill Baldwin
5th Street Connection



Sid Mohn
Heartland Alliance for
Human Needs and Human
Rights



John Perry
Interstate Migrant
Education Council



Marcia Zashin
Educational Consultant to
Cleveland Public Schools
and Project ACT

Roger Rosenthal

Roger Rosenthal
Migrant Legal Action
Program

Al Wright

Al Wright
National Association of
Migrant Educators

Mary Ann Gleason

Mary Ann Gleason
National Coalition for
the Homeless

Shirley Wolfe

Shirley Wolfe
Vermont Migrant Education
Program

Patty Mullay Fugere

Patty Mullay Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

cc: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Members
CC Docket No. 96-45 Service List

September 26, 1996

RECEIVED
OCT 11 1996
FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Sharon L. Nelson, Chairman
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
Commissioner Schoenfelder

Dear Chairman Nelson:

As you prepare your recommendations regarding Universal Service, we encourage you to include in the definition of services to be supported voice mail and other telephone services to homeless persons and migrant farmworkers. As we have noted in our Comments to the Joint Board (April 12, May 7, and August 2, 1996), the FCC has a statutory obligation under the Act to provide universal service to "all people" living in the United States. This includes people who are homeless and migrant farmworkers. These populations cannot obtain the most basic residential service because they lack a permanent residence. Therefore, the FCC should define universal service to include substitutes for basic telephone service for them.

Recently, some Washington insiders have joked about this issue, suggesting that people who are homeless are not deserving of the guarantee to basic communications services embodied in the Act. But offering telephone access to some of America's most needy citizens via voice mail and other telephone services provided through social service agencies is very serious. Without the ability to make and receive a phone call, people who are homeless cannot list a telephone number on a job application, they cannot find out about an interview, and they cannot receive a job offer by telephone. They are effectively shut out of the employment process. Not only that, without telephone access they lack a significant resource that would help them find housing, child care, and educational opportunities.

Those who have made light of this serious issue on the grounds that providing voice mail to homeless people is frivolous have missed the point: voice mail helps homeless people move back into the mainstream to find work and become self-sufficient.

Voice mail is also important for migrant farmworkers -- the poorest of the working poor -- who are away from their homes the better part of the year. These workers need to be able to receive a message from a doctor, a child, or a social service provider. They also need telephone services to learn where new crops are being harvested so they can continue to find work. Finally, because children of migrant farmworkers are often in transit, they need telephone access to keep in touch with teachers and to continue their educational progress.


Already, some states have seen the benefits of providing this basic form of communication to people who are homeless. The state of Wisconsin implemented its own universal service plan which included voice mail for people who are homeless. Wisconsin implemented this policy after finding that there is an expectation on the part of prospective employers that people can be reached by telephone, and that increased telephone accessibility helps people who are homeless to find jobs and to assimilate with other citizens. Wisconsin also found that voice mail enables people who are homeless to obtain medical and social service benefits more effectively. Outside of Wisconsin, cities from Seattle to Cleveland to

helping people find jobs and housing. All of these programs demonstrate that providing voice mail to people who are homeless helps communities and is affordable.

Voice mail can provide a vital link to the world of employment and security for people who are homeless. Far from being a luxury, it is a tool that allows people to work, to support their families, to contribute to the tax base, and, of course, to become paying telephone subscribers. This scenario benefits everyone.

We would like the opportunity to present more information about this vital issue to the Joint Board at the October 17th meeting. We respectfully request a place on your agenda to tell you more about how providing voice mail to people who are homeless and to migrant workers can benefit those populations as well as the general public. If you would like to explore the possibility of our testifying, or would like more information, please call Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.


Sincerely,



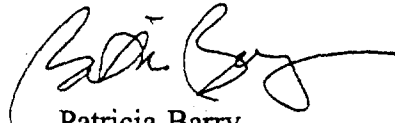
Katherine Grincewich
Office of the General Counsel
United States Catholic
Conference



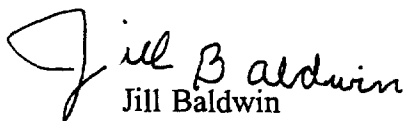
Linda Israel
American Women's
Roundtable



Ken McEldowney
Consumer Action



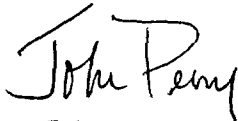
Patricia Barry
Community Technology
Institute



Jill Baldwin
5th Street Connection



Sid Mohn
Heartland Alliance for
Human Needs and Human
Rights



John Perry
Interstate Migrant
Education Council



Marcia Zashin
Educational Consultant to
Cleveland Public Schools
and Project ACT

Roger Rosenthal

Roger Rosenthal
Migrant Legal Action
Program

Al Wright

Al Wright
National Association of
Migrant Educators

Mary Ann Gleason

Mary Ann Gleason
National Coalition for
the Homeless

Shirley Wolfe

Shirley Wolfe
Vermont Migrant Education
Program

Patty Mullay Fugere

Patty Mullay Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

cc: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Members
CC Docket No. 96-45 Service List

September 26, 1996

The Honorable Kenneth McClure, Vice Chairman
Missouri Public Service Commission
301 W. High Street, Suite 530
Jefferson City, MO 65102

FCC
OCT 1 1996

Dear Vice Chairman McClure:

As you prepare your recommendations regarding Universal Service, we encourage you to include in the definition of services to be supported voice mail and other telephone services to homeless persons and migrant farmworkers. As we have noted in our Comments to the Joint Board (April 12, May 7, and August 2, 1996), the FCC has a statutory obligation under the Act to provide universal service to "all people" living in the United States. This includes people who are homeless and migrant farmworkers. These populations cannot obtain the most basic residential service because they lack a permanent residence. Therefore, the FCC should define universal service to include substitutes for basic telephone service for them.

Recently, some Washington insiders have joked about this issue, suggesting that people who are homeless are not deserving of the guarantee to basic communications services embodied in the Act. But offering telephone access to some of America's most needy citizens via voice mail and other telephone services provided through social service agencies is very serious. Without the ability to make and receive a phone call, people who are homeless cannot list a telephone number on a job application, they cannot find out about an interview, and they cannot receive a job offer by telephone. They are effectively shut out of the employment process. Not only that, without telephone access they lack a significant resource that would help them find housing, child care, and educational opportunities.

Those who have made light of this serious issue on the grounds that providing voice mail to homeless people is frivolous have missed the point: voice mail helps homeless people move back into the mainstream to find work and become self-sufficient.

Voice mail is also important for migrant farmworkers -- the poorest of the working poor -- who are away from their homes the better part of the year. These workers need to be able to receive a message from a doctor, a child, or a social service provider. They also need telephone services to learn where new crops are being harvested so they can continue to find work. Finally, because children of migrant farmworkers are often in transit, they need telephone access to keep in touch with teachers and to continue their educational progress.

Already, some states have seen the benefits of providing this basic form of communication to people who are homeless. The state of Wisconsin implemented its own universal service plan which included voice mail for people who are homeless. Wisconsin implemented this policy after finding that there is an expectation on the part of prospective employers that people can be reached by telephone, and that increased telephone accessibility helps people who are homeless to find jobs and to assimilate with other citizens. Wisconsin also found that voice mail enables people who are homeless to obtain medical and social service benefits more effectively. Outside of Wisconsin, cities from Seattle to Cleveland to New York have successfully implemented community based voice mail programs that are

helping people find jobs and housing. All of these programs demonstrate that providing voice mail to people who are homeless helps communities and is affordable.

Voice mail can provide a vital link to the world of employment and security for people who are homeless. Far from being a luxury, it is a tool that allows people to work, to support their families, to contribute to the tax base, and, of course, to become paying telephone subscribers. This scenario benefits everyone.

We would like the opportunity to present more information about this vital issue to the Joint Board at the October 17th meeting. We respectfully request a place on your agenda to tell you more about how providing voice mail to people who are homeless and to migrant workers can benefit those populations as well as the general public. If you would like to explore the possibility of our testifying, or would like more information, please call Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.

Sincerely,



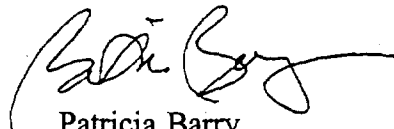
Katherine Grincewich
Office of the General Counsel
United States Catholic
Conference



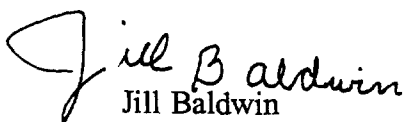
Linda Israel
American Women's
Roundtable



Ken McEldowney
Consumer Action




Patricia Barry
Community Technology
Institute



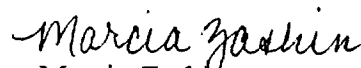
Jill Baldwin
5th Street Connection



Sid Mohn
Heartland Alliance for
Human Needs and Human
Rights



John Perry
Interstate Migrant
Education Council



Marcia Zashin
Educational Consultant to
Cleveland Public Schools
and Project ACT

Roger Rosenthal

Roger Rosenthal
Migrant Legal Action
Program

Al Wright

Al Wright
National Association of
Migrant Educators

Mary Ann Gleason

Mary Ann Gleason
National Coalition for
the Homeless

Shirley Wolfe

Shirley Wolfe
Vermont Migrant Education
Program

Patty Mullay Fugere

Patty Mullay Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

cc: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Members
CC Docket No. 96-45 Service List

September 26, 1996

FOIA
001
1/1/96

Martha S. Hogerty
Public Counsel for the State of Missouri
P.O. Box 7800
Harry S. Truman Building, Room 250
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Hogerty:

As you prepare your recommendations regarding Universal Service, we encourage you to include in the definition of services to be supported voice mail and other telephone services to homeless persons and migrant farmworkers. As we have noted in our Comments to the Joint Board (April 12, May 7, and August 2, 1996), the FCC has a statutory obligation under the Act to provide universal service to "all people" living in the United States. This includes people who are homeless and migrant farmworkers. These populations cannot obtain the most basic residential service because they lack a permanent residence. Therefore, the FCC should define universal service to include substitutes for basic telephone service for them.

Recently, some Washington insiders have joked about this issue, suggesting that people who are homeless are not deserving of the guarantee to basic communications services embodied in the Act. But offering telephone access to some of America's most needy citizens via voice mail and other telephone services provided through social service agencies is very serious. Without the ability to make and receive a phone call, people who are homeless cannot list a telephone number on a job application, they cannot find out about an interview, and they cannot receive a job offer by telephone. They are effectively shut out of the employment process. Not only that, without telephone access they lack a significant resource that would help them find housing, child care, and educational opportunities.

Those who have made light of this serious issue on the grounds that providing voice mail to homeless people is frivolous have missed the point: voice mail helps homeless people move back into the mainstream to find work and become self-sufficient.

Voice mail is also important for migrant farmworkers -- the poorest of the working poor -- who are away from their homes the better part of the year. These workers need to be able to receive a message from a doctor, a child, or a social service provider. They also need telephone services to learn where new crops are being harvested so they can continue to find work. Finally, because children of migrant farmworkers are often in transit, they need telephone access to keep in touch with teachers and to continue their educational progress.

Already, some states have seen the benefits of providing this basic form of communication to people who are homeless. The state of Wisconsin implemented its own universal service plan which included voice mail for people who are homeless. Wisconsin implemented this policy after finding that there is an expectation on the part of prospective employers that people can be reached by telephone, and that increased telephone accessibility helps people who are homeless to find jobs and to assimilate with other citizens. Wisconsin also found that voice mail enables people who are homeless to obtain medical and social service benefits more effectively. Outside of Wisconsin, cities from Seattle to Cleveland to

helping people find jobs and housing. All of these programs demonstrate that providing voice mail to people who are homeless helps communities and is affordable.

Voice mail can provide a vital link to the world of employment and security for people who are homeless. Far from being a luxury, it is a tool that allows people to work, to support their families, to contribute to the tax base, and, of course, to become paying telephone subscribers. This scenario benefits everyone.

We would like the opportunity to present more information about this vital issue to the Joint Board at the October 17th meeting. We respectfully request a place on your agenda to tell you more about how providing voice mail to people who are homeless and to migrant workers can benefit those populations as well as the general public. If you would like to explore the possibility of our testifying, or would like more information, please call Lori Dolqueist at the Institute for Public Representation (202) 662-9543.

Sincerely,



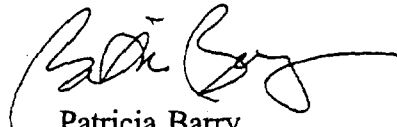
Katherine Grincewich
Office of the General Counsel
United States Catholic
Conference



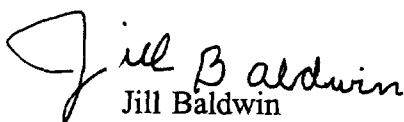
Linda Israel
American Women's
Roundtable



Ken McEldowney
Consumer Action




Patricia Barry
Community Technology
Institute



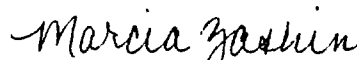
Jill Baldwin
5th Street Connection



Sid Mohn
Heartland Alliance for
Human Needs and Human
Rights



John Perry
Interstate Migrant
Education Council



Marcia Zashin
Educational Consultant to
Cleveland Public Schools
and Project ACT

Roger Rosenthal

Roger Rosenthal
Migrant Legal Action
Program

Al Wright

Al Wright
National Association of
Migrant Educators

Mary Ann Gleason

Mary Ann Gleason
National Coalition for
the Homeless

Shirley Wolfe

Shirley Wolfe
Vermont Migrant Education
Program

Patty Mullay Fugere

Patty Mullay Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

cc: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Members
CC Docket No. 96-45 Service List